

Appl. No. : 10/524,600  
Filed : February 14, 2005

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the production of pressed ceramics in the field of dental technology, ~~having the steps of said method comprising:~~

~~producing~~ providing a muffle having a free space which is transparent to thermal radiation in a floor region thereof,

introducing the muffle into a ceramic press furnace,

heating a ceramic pellet, and

pressing a pressed ceramic object,

~~Characterized in that wherein a free space (25), which is transparent to thermal radiation, is implemented in the floor region of the muffle (50).~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the free space (25) is implemented during the production of the muffle (50).

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~Claims 1 or 2, characterized in that Claim 1, wherein~~ the free space (25) is bordered by stand feet (24), which are particularly implemented in one piece with the muffle (50).

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the muffle (50) is placed centered on a press plate (B) of the ceramic press furnace.

5. (Currently Amended) A ceramic press furnace, ~~particularly for performing the method according to one of Claims 1 to 4 characterized in that, wherein~~ a thermal reflecting body (R) is integrated and/or inserted into the press plate (B) or the free space (25) is formed by designing the press plate (B) or a press plate inlay (C) having elevated stand feet (24).

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6. (Currently Amended) The ceramic press furnace according to Claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the thermal reflecting body (R) has a conical shape.
7. (Currently Amended) The ceramic press furnace according to Claim 5 ~~or 6~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a muffle (50) may be placed centered on the thermal reflecting body (R).
8. (Currently Amended) A muffle, ~~particularly for performing the method according to Claim 1, characterized in that~~ wherein the muffle (50) has a free space (25) having multiple piles (24) in its floor region.
9. (Currently Amended) The muffle according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a protusion (E), particularly in the form of a central pin, is positioned neighboring at least one press ceramic object (40).
10. (Currently Amended) The muffle according to Claim 8 ~~or 9~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the free space (25) in the floor region of the muffle(50) is implemented as vaulted.
11. (Currently Amended) The muffle according to Claim 9 ~~or 10~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein multiple protrusions (E) are implemented, ~~particularly two or three~~.
12. (Currently Amended) The muffle according to Claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the free space (25) is formed by a pedestal (60) which may be laid below the muffle (50).